

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated January 10, 2006. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Bodnar et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,143,945 ("*Bodnar*"). Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

I. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 are not anticipated by *Bodnar*.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 as being anticipated by *Bodnar*. Applicants submit that the claims are not anticipated by *Bodnar* because *Bodnar* fails to disclose each and every limitation of these claims.

Claims 1 and 28 are independent claims with claims 2-19, 22-24, and 26 depending on claim 1. Claims 1 and 28 recite "in the presence of a blowing agent . . . [and] in the presence of a carboxylic acid." Nothing in *Bodnar* discloses the reaction occurring in the presence of a blowing agent . . . and in the presence of a carboxylic acid as set forth in claims 1 and 28. Instead, *Bodnar* discloses that the organic carboxylic acid is a component used in forming the blowing agent mixture. For instance, *Bodnar* relates to a method of making foam by mixing together a polyisocyanate, a polyol, a blowing agent mixture, and a trimerization catalyst. (*Bodnar*, col. 3, lns. 14-19) *Bodnar* discloses that the blowing agent mixture is prepared by mixing a halocarbon with an organic carboxylic acid. (*Bodnar*, col. 3, lns. 38-42) The blowing agent mixture is then used as a component in the method of making the foam. (*Bodnar*, col. 3, lns. 14-19) Therefore, nothing in *Bodnar* discloses mixing the components to make the foam in the presence of a carboxylic acid. *Bodnar* even discloses that "[t]he novelty in the present

invention resides in the blowing agent mixture (c) to be employed . . . [which] comprises (i) a halocarbon blowing agent and (ii) an organic carboxylic acid." (Bodnar, col. 3, lns. 38-42)

In view of the recitations in claims 1 and 28 that are not disclosed by *Bodnar*, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejections and allow these claims. Applicants further request that the Examiner also withdraw the § 102 rejections of dependent claims 2-19, 22-24, and 26, since it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 28 are allowable. Dependent claims 2-19, 22-24, and 26 must *a fortiori* also be allowable, since they carry with them all the limitations of the independent claims to which they ultimately refer.

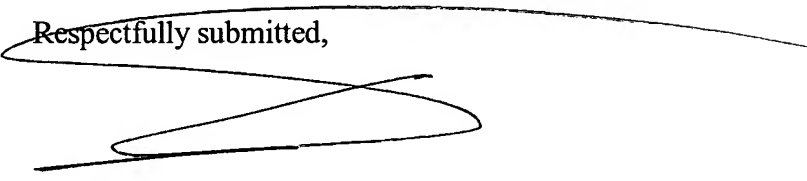
II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, allowance of the pending claims and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,



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